



# ***Natick Soldier Center Textiles Performance Testing Facilities***

## ***Overview:***

The Textiles Performance Testing Facilities has the capabilities to perform all physical wet and dry performance testing, and visual and instrumental color analysis on textile materials. Other unique capabilities include the **Raincourt Facility**, the **Pilot Plant**, the **Shade Room** and the **Microscopy Laboratory**.

## ***Description:***

The Natick Soldier Center, in accordance with ASTM and AATCC, can verify fabric and end-item performance characteristics against government specifications. Natick can evaluate performance and establish requirements for developmental materials.

The **Raincourt Facility** is approximately 40 feet by 40 feet, and can simulate rainfall at varying rates. This information is used to support the development of field items that will keep the soldiers dry and comfortable during military operations in a wet environment.

The **Pilot Plant** has the capability to dye, print and apply finishes to textile materials. It can produce printed camouflage patterns based on standard and experimental designs. The Plant provides development work in support of combat clothing, textile based individual equipment, e.g. backpacks and tentage.

The **Shade Room** is used to visually and instrumentally evaluate color on Army textiles and establish shade standards and acceptable deviations from the shade standards.

The **Microscopy Laboratory** has the capability to analyze fiber and fabric blends to aid in both research and development.

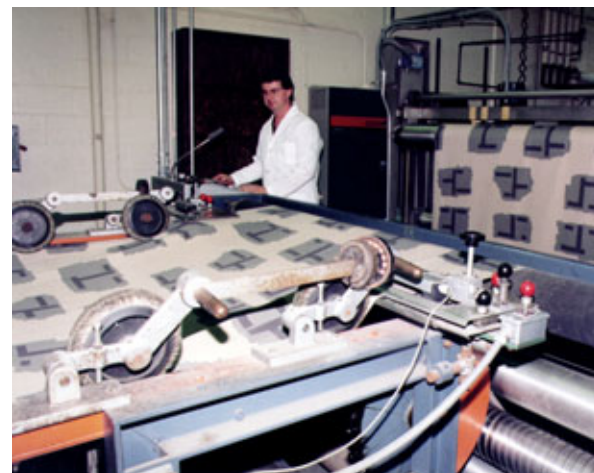


## ***Point of Contact:***

### **Individual Protection Liaison**

COMM: (508) 233-6481, DSN: 256-6481

E-mail: [amssb-rip@natick.army.mil](mailto:amssb-rip@natick.army.mil)



U.S. Army  
Soldier and Biological  
Chemical Command

Soldier Systems Center  
Kansas Street  
Natick, Massachusetts  
01760  
[www.sbcom.army.mil](http://www.sbcom.army.mil)

rev 4-22-02